



Commissioners
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MEMO

TO: Jennifer Boatwright
Boatwright Law Office, P.C.

FROM: George H. Corn *YHC*

DATE: September 21, 2007

cc: Sheriff Chris Hoffman
County Commissioners

RE: Bitterroot Humane Society

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Ravalli County Commissioners

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Jennifer, both Chris, Kathleen and I appreciate you meeting with us a few weeks ago last month to discuss the fact that the Bitterroot Humane Society filed Adjuster's Liens against the County and the County Sheriff, because the Sheriff had asked for the Humane Society's help in the placement of animals that had been taken from owners due to abuse. As I noted the County had no notice of this abrupt change in this relationship with the Society which has been one of mutual cooperation through the years, even if on occasion there have been disagreements and misunderstandings.

Hopefully you have now had the opportunity to discuss this, as well as the legality of the liens, with the Society's Board of Directors to see if a solution can be worked out in regard to the immediate problem involving the liens and the long term potential problem regarding the relationship between the County and the Society.

As we discussed, if these issues cannot be solved they could result in the County having to seek other service providers since inevitably the Sheriff will need a place to house abused animals.

As was also noted, this might necessarily result in the Commissioners having to consider diverting funds now paid to the Humane Society to another service provider. Additionally, a portion of the funds from the new license fee might also have to be diverted for that purpose should we not be able to resolve this problem.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding the Society's position in this matter. If a meeting between representatives of the Society, the Commissioners and the Sheriff's Office would be helpful, please let me know.

GHC:hs